

started smoking before they were 18. Three thousand teenagers will become regular smokers each day. So when we finish this day, we can count 3,000 more young people that will become smokers. Already this year more than 1 million kids, a million children, have become smokers. Three hundred forty thousand of those kids will die as a result of becoming smokers.

Mr. Speaker, to look at these numbers, one would think we would never be able to win the battle against this dangerous and deadly habit. But I believe that Cynthia Plascencia and her friends are smarter than that. They know smoking not only causes them to have bad breath, stained teeth, and smelly clothes, they know it interferes with them achieving their dreams. They know they will not be able to reach for the stars if they have to be hooked up to a respirator. They know that cancer, heart disease, stroke and asthma will not help them reach their goals. They know they will never meet their athletic goals if they cannot catch their breath. And they know they will not do well in school if they cannot concentrate.

After reading Cynthia's essay, I believe that teenagers today, when armed with the right information, will know better than to start smoking.

We have learned that there are programs that work. Study after study have proven that anti-smoking education campaigns significantly reduce tobacco use among kids. Community-based programs, public education, school-based programs, assistance for smokers who want to quit, enforcement of youth access laws are all important components of an anti-smoking campaign. But most importantly, we must get to the children before they start smoking. We need to work to see that all students, like Cynthia Plascencia, know that it is just not worth it to start smoking.

Cynthia is an example of the culture we must create in our children, where it is not cool to smoke. Because kids see friends, family, and movie stars smoking, they think it is a way to gain social acceptance. If that myth disappears, kids will be less tempted to start smoking.

Everyone must realize that smoking is like crack or heroin, it is addictive and it will take a person's life at a much earlier age.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is the Great American Smokeout. Millions of Americans will stop smoking for the day. Let us hope that they take it a step further and give up smoking for life.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS ASSOCIATED WITH SEPTEMBER 11 EVENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have often risen to this floor

over the last couple of weeks and spoken about the unfinished business of this House, and I again rise to my feet.

Let me, first of all, make a very brief comment about airline security. We had a deal, Mr. Speaker. We had a bill passed by 101 in the other body. We had the opportunity in this House to likewise pass that bill and immediately place it on the President's desk. The Republican majority chose not to do that, causing a conference and causing delay.

In the course of that delay, an individual went into O'Hare Airport with seven knives, a stun gun, and pepper spray. Now, I have legislation that I will be offering that criminalizes the carrying of knives and instruments of danger on airplanes, but I would much rather be passing a comprehensive airline security bill, and I hope we will do that.

I offer that in the spirit of bipartisanship and I offer that in the spirit of the voice of the American people. I have heard their voices, and I think their voices sing the same refrain: Help us protect ourselves and help us protect those who travel the airlines of America and around the world.

I also feel compelled to come to this floor to acknowledge the needs of two young women, Dayna Curry, who celebrated her birthday while incarcerated in an Afghanistan jail, and Heather Mercer, 24, both of them from the State of Texas. Let me thank their Congressperson, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), for his untiring efforts on their behalf.

I rise today as a mother, as the Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, as a woman, to ask whether or not these young ladies have been forgotten along with the other detainees. We now find out that with the Taliban they have been absconded off to the southern part of Afghanistan. We do not know where they are. We are told by Afghanistan detention center guards that they were nice young women; that they were taken away in the dark of night; that we do not know where they are. We believe they may be going off to a southern city.

We understand the conditions they were living in were none to be proud of. There was no four star and five star hotel. We understand that they tried to stay positive by singing songs and praying. We understand that they do not separate from each other. They are two Americans, I think there is a total of eight, and they are united.

We also understand that family members have not been able to talk with them; that they have not been able to meet with outside officials since their lawyers' last visit in late October. Who amongst us, Mr. Speaker, would tolerate that here in the United States or accept that?

These young women cannot be forgotten. And even though there may be some inner workings, some negotiation, I think the voice of the United States should be strong: We want our

hostages returned. We want these young women returned. These young women were not violating any laws other than merciful efforts to help people to have a better life.

The Taliban should be challenged. Yes, they may be running away, the Northern Alliance may be victorious, they may be in Kabul, but we must stand up for these young women. I am looking to the State Department to begin to ask the hard questions about these young women, and I want to join with my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), to demand for their release, but also for a voice of the United States, the kind of voice we had with the hostages in Iran.

Let us have a voice as we parallel to fight terrorism and to fight against the Taliban. Have them give our people back and let our voices be loud.

Mr. Speaker, let me briefly thank the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) for what she has been doing in acknowledging those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. As I begin to call their names, and I may not be able to conclude it, but I want to call their names and ask apologies of their families if I mispronounce them:

Harold Lizcano, Martin Lizzul, George Llanes, Elizabeth Claire "Beth" Logler, Catherine Lisa LoGuidice, Jerome Lohez, Michael Lomax, Stephen V. Long, Laura M. Longing, Salvatore Lopes, David Lopez, Maclovio "Joe" Lopez, George Lopez, Manuel "Manny" L. Lopez, Leobarbo Lopez, Daniel Lopez, Israel P. Lopez, Luis M. Lopez, Chet Louie, Stuart Seid Louis, Joseph Lovero, Sara Low, Michael W. Lowe, Garry Lozier, John Peter Lozowsky, Charles Peter Lucania, Edward "Ted" Hobbs Luckett, II, Mark G. Ludvigsen, Lee Charles Ludwig, Sean Thomas Lugano, Daniel Lugo, Jin Lui, Marie Lukas, William Lum, Jr., Michael P. Lunden, Christopher Lunder, Anthony Luparello, Gary Lutnick, Linda Luzzicone, Alexander Lygin, CeeCee Lyles, and Lyn Corea Gray.

They are all people. They lost their lives on September 11, 2001. It is the challenge of this House to pay tribute to them in the works we do and also to bring our hostages home.

TRIBUTE TO BENNY H. POTTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, Veterans Day, a few days ago, was very significant to someone in my district. I want to pay tribute to Benny H. Potter, a resident of the West Adams community in Los Angeles. He lived there for a decade, and was a veteran of the Second World War. He passed away recently. He was greatly loved and respected by all in the community who knew him.